

BROOMALL, PA—On Sunday, April 19, 2009, Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-07) spoke to the congregation at Temple Sholom in Broomall, Pa., to provide a legislative update on efforts to help bolster and stimulate the economy.

“In Washington, Congress and the Administration continue to take the necessary bold measures in the face of the economic challenges we face,” the Congressman said. “This month, I voted for the House Resolution in support of President Obama’s budget. The President’s budget builds on the current economic recovery efforts, particularly those in the Economic Stimulus, by including tax relief to middle class families, creating jobs through infrastructure investments, investing in education, health care reform and modernization, and investments in energy independence. These investments slow unemployment and aid working Americans and in doing so help to restart a cycle of positive economic growth.”

Among other initiatives to stimulate the economy, the budget will:

Make Permanent the \$800 “Making Work Pay” Tax Cut for Workers and Their Families. The Recovery Act created the Making Work Pay tax credit, a refundable income tax credit, which will offset the payroll tax on up to the first \$6,450 of earnings for about 95 percent of all American workers while still preserving the important principle of a dedicated revenue source for Social Security. This helps small business owners struggling to meet expenses. And with families squeezed, this tax cut will put needed money in their pockets for them to make ends meet and cover the costs of necessities. This is the first stage of a middle-class tax cut promised during the presidential campaign. The Budget will make Making Work Pay permanent.

Continue to Cut Taxes for the families of Millions of Children Through an Expansion of the Child Tax Credit. By expanding the Child Tax Credit, the recovery Act provided a new tax cut and increased the generosity of the existing credit to millions of children—fulfilling the promise that a family that works hard and plays by the rules will be able to raise their children above the poverty line. The Budget makes this tax cut permanent.

Increase Food Stamp Benefits for Over 30 Million Americans. Even in tough times, our Nation is a nation of plenty, and no one should have to go hungry. The Recovery Act will spend nearly \$20 billion to increase food stamp benefits for overstretched families, and provide additional support for food banks, school lunch programs, and the Special Supplemental Nutrition

Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program.

Provide Nearly 60 Million Retired and disabled Americans an immediate \$250 Through Temporarily Increasing Benefits. These vulnerable populations are the first ones to feel an economic downturn. Through the recovery Act, we will spend almost \$15 billion to provide nearly 60 million retired Americans and Americans with disabilities an immediate \$250 through temporarily increasing Social Security, Supplemental Security Income, and Veterans benefits.

Extend, Expand, and Reform unemployment insurance (UI) Benefits. With unemployment on the rise and those out of work going longer without new jobs, we have provided both a boost to our economy and to these workers' well-being by extending the Emergency Unemployment Compensation program through December 2009, increasing weekly UI benefits by \$25, and providing financial incentives for States to modernize their UI systems to expand coverage. Beyond this year, the Administration will update the nation's UI system to better address the challenges and realities of the 21st Century workforce.

Temple Sholom was founded in 1956 and is a member of the Union for Reform Judaism. It is an open congregation which has a policy and a long-standing practice of inclusion. Temple Sholom believes that "Judaism is an exciting, creative, challenging way of life. As a religious institution, we are committed to your personal freedom to understand and choose your way, not to dictate your choice or your path. We believe that Jewish continuity is best served by providing individuals and families with opportunities to exercise their own choices in religious practice and belief."

Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the U.S. Congress.

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